

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 RANGOO 00336 071139Z

50

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 EB-11 OMB-01 AID-20 IO-14 FEA-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 AF-10

DRC-01 INT-08 SCI-06 /177 W
----- 090368

R 071025Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7663

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC HAWAII

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE RANGOON 0336

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR AS BM

SUBJ: WHITLAM VISIT CONCLUDES

REF: A. RANGOON 2841

B. RANGOON 2922

SUMMARY. FEBRUARY 4-6 VISIT BY AUSTRALIAN PRIMIN WHITLAM INCLUDED 8 HOURS CORDIAL DISCUSSIONS WITH NE WIN. SUBJECTS INCLUDED INSURGENCY, REGIONALISM, AND TRADE IMBALANCE. GUB APPARENTLY TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO IMPRESS AGAIN ON GOA EXTENT OF PRC INVOLVEMENT IN INSURGENCY. GOA SEEMED TO FIND LITTLE GUB ENTHUSIASM FOR ITS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 RANGOO 00336 071139Z

PROPOSAL FOR WIDER REGIONAL ORGANIZATION. MAIN SUBSTANTIVE RESULTS

WERE PROBABLE NE WIN VISIT TO AUSTRALIA IN MID-1974, PROMISE OF AUSTRALIAN COAL FOR BURMA, PLEDGE OF INCREASING GOA AID, AND PLANNED VISIT OF "EXPERT" TO ADVISE GUB ON REDUCING TRADE IMBALANCE WITH AUSTRALIA. AT PRESS CONFERENCE WHITLAM SAID HE WOULD NOT COMMENT ON DIEGO GARCIA WHILE IN BURMA BUT EMPHASIZED SUPPORT FOR "ZONE OF PEACE" CONCEPT. VISIT APPARENTLY WENT OFF WELL. END SUMMARY.

1. FEBRUARY 4-6 VISIT OF AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM WENT OFF IN APPARENTLY CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE WITH CONSIDERABLE FAVORABLE PUBLICITY. IN CLOSING PRESS CONFERENCE, WHITLAM STATED HE "TRUSTED" NE WIN WOULD VISIT AUSTRALIA LATER THIS YEAR. EMBASSY LEARNED CONFIDENTIALLY THAT NE WIN VISIT TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR JUNE.

2. STATE BANQUET SPEECHES CONTAINED FEW SURPRISES. NE WIN REPEATED SHOP-WORN FORMULA (REF A) FOR SOUTHEAST ASIAN CONFERENCE ON ACHIEVING REGIONAL PEACE, SAYING THAT IT SHOULD TAKE PLACE "WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES MORE FAVORABLE", PERHAPS THEREBY MOVING IT EVEN FARTHER INTO THE DIM FUTURE. WHITLAM EXPOUNDED NOW FAMILIAR THEME OF CHANGING EMPHASIS IN AUSTRALIA'S ASIAN POLICIES, PROMISED ANNUAL INCREASES IN AID TO BURMA, AND CONGRATULATED GUB ON "HAVING FULL CONTROL OVER ITS RESOURCES." WHITLAM NOTED THAT AUSTRALIA FACED "URGENT TASK" OF REGAINING CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT OF ITS MINERAL RESOURCES, WHICH NOW IN LARGE PART FOREIGN-OWNED.

3. OTHER SUBSTANTIVE DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCED AT WHITLAM PRESS CONFERENCE WAS APPROVAL OF EXPORT OF 154,000 TONS AUSTRALIAN COAL TO BURMA. THIS WILL FILL GAP LIKELY TO BE CAUSED BY RECENT RESTRICTIONS ON COAL EXPORTS IMPOSED BY INDIA, BURMA'S TRADITIONAL SUPPLIER.

4. IN FEBRUARY 5 PRESS CONFERENCE GOA DEPUTY PERMANENT SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WOOLCOTT REPORTED WHITLAM AND NE WIN HAD EIGHT HOURS OF DISCUSSIONS. FROM HIS AND WHITLAM'S PRESS CONFERENCES, CLEAR THAT FOLLOWING AMONG SUBJECTS DISCUSSED:

(A) INSURGENCY. WOOLCOTT SAID NE WIN GAVE ACCOUNT OF INSURGENCY SITUATION IN NORTHERN BURMA AND ADDED "YOU COULD MAKE THE ASSUMPTION THAT IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO TALK ABOUT INSURGENCY WITHOUT TALKING ABOUT CHINA."

(B) REGIONALISM. WOOLCOTT SAID "ABSOLUTELY NOT TRUE" THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 RANGOO 00336 071139Z

REASON FOR WHITLAM TRIP WAS TO SELL SCHEME FOR WIDER REGIONAL ORGANIZATION. WHITLAM TOLD PRESS THAT SCHEME DISCUSSED "ONLY IN GENERAL TERMS" AND REPORTED THAT NE WIN THINKS "THE MORE COUNTRIES BELONG TO REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS THE BETTER" BUT INSISTS THAT REGIONAL ACTIVITIES ALWAYS BE IN UN CONTEXT.

(C) TRADE IMBALANCE. PLAINTIVE COMMENTS IN BURMESE PRESS ABOUT SEVERE TRADE IMBALANCE FAVORING AUSTRALIA WERE ONLY DISCORDANT NOTE IN PRESS COVERAGE OF VISIT, AND SUBJECT DOUBT-

LESS DISCUSSED BETWEEN WHITLAM AND NE WIN AND BETWEEN GOA DEPUTY SECRETARY OF TRADE MINISTRY AND GUB TRADE OFFICIALS. WHITLAM PROMISED GOA WOULD SEND "EXPERT" TO EXPLAIN HOW GUB CAN GAIN GREATER ACCESS TO AUSTRALIAN MARKET.

5. IN RESPONSE TO PRESS CONFERENCE QUERY, WHITLAM SAID HE WOULD "MAKE NO PRONOUNCEMENT WHILE HERE" ON DIEGO GARCIA BUT EMPHASIZED THAT GOA SUPPORTS SRI LANKA "ZONE OF PEACE" PROPOSAL.

6. COMMENT: FROM VEILED PUBLIC COMMENTS, IT APPEARS THAT NE WIN TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO IMPRESS ON WHITLAM EXTENT OF PRC INVOLVEMENT IN BCP INSURGENCY, AS GUB TRADE MINISTER DID WITH GOA FONMIN LAST NOVEMBER (REF B). AUSTRALIANS SEEM TO HAVE FOUND LITTLE GUB INTEREST IN WIDER REGIONAL ORGANIZATION AND GUB APPARENTLY BACKED OFF SLIGHTLY FROM ITS JANUARY 1973 PROPOSAL FOR A REGIONAL PEACE CONFERENCE ON BASIS TIME NOT YET RIPE.

7. OVERALL INITIAL IMPRESSION IS THAT VISIT WENT OFF WELL. WE MAY HEAR MORE DETAILS FROM GUB AND AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY CONTACTS. LACEY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, PRESS CONFERENCES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974RANGOO00336
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: RANGOON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740249/aaaabtnj.tel
Line Count: 135
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. RANGOON 2841
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUL 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <08 JUL 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WHITLAM VISIT CONCLUDES
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, AS, BM, (WHITLAM, E GOUGH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005